

MEDFORD NEWS

By Bliss Heine

Medford has again secured the Oregon National Guard encampment for this year which means that again over 3,000 soldiers and officers will camp and be entertained at Medford the early part of the summer. The San Carlo Grand Opera company of 100 artists will be heard in Medford March 1st. This promises to be a rare treat for the people of the Rogue River valley.

"Toggerly Bill" Isaacs was elected vice-president of the Oregon Clothiers last week at Portland. Several local radio cans succeeded last week in connection with a station in Milan, Italy.

Building permits for January have totaled nearly \$60,000 which sets a new record January building in Medford.

On Wednesday evening of last week the third annual Firemen's Ball was given in the beautiful Oriental Gardens, the receipts of which are placed in a reserve fund for the firemen. The features of the evening were the dancing of the Charleston by the Misses Kathryn Fabric and Madelyne Morgan and fancy clog dancing by Ed Eldred and G. Neimoyer. Both responded to hearty encores and were greatly enjoyed by the huge crowd present. Excellent music was furnished by Alfred's Imperial Orchestra of seven pieces which generously responded to the many encores. The beautiful ferns decorating the stage where the entertainers performed were donated by the Rogue Valley Floral company. This ball turned out to be the best ever held by the local firemen and it was one o'clock when the party finally broke up.

Dr. Charles Reginald Ray, well known pioneer of Medford and the Rogue River valley, very suddenly passed away at Los Angeles on the night of January 26th while enroute home from New York city. His son Frank, and Mrs. Frank Ray were with him at the time. They had been east attending to the estate of his brother Colonel Frank H. Ray, who died last April in Los Angeles.

Enroute home the doctor contracted a cold which developed into pneumonia as they neared Los Angeles where he was rushed to a hospital in Hollywood where he died that night.

Dr. Ray came to Jackson county, Ore., in 1897 for the purpose of engaging in mining. He was accompanied by his family and located at Gold Hill where he opened and conducted a mining and assay office for the handling entirely of his own mining business and employed competent mining engineers in his research work.

Approximately \$265,000 was taken from the property commonly known as the old Gold Hill property in the early mining days. This property is on the mountain overlooking the present site of the Gold Ray power plant. Dr. Ray expended intelligently a large amount of money in the development of several quartz properties in the Gold Hill section. He also developed the Braden Mine in the Kane's creek section.

He was greatly impressed with the Rogue River from a power standpoint and used electric power from Gold Ray to run his mines on that mountain with. He acquired the rights at Gold Ray, and, with the assistance of his brother, Frank H. Ray, harnessed the power at Gold Ray, built the Gold Ray dam, built its power plant, and began the construction of its power lines through the valley. Realizing the future possibilities for power, he pioneered in the power development of the Rogue River.

The public responded very rapidly. After the installation of the Gold Ray plant and the power lines had been extended into Medford, Jacksonville and Ashland, and these cities, with Central Point, Gold Hill and Grants Pass had been lighted, and many mines had been supplied with power, he organized the Prospect Construction company which acquired the power rights of the upper river at Prospect. It installed and developed the Prospect power plant.

Certain people in Indianapolis then became interested in the extension of the power and organized the Rogue River Electric company to take over these power holdings.

Later, through the efforts of Dr. Ray, this company was amalgamated with the Siskiyou Light and Power company, a California concern operating out of Yreka and invading the Ashland territory. Eventually the California Oregon Power company was organized and took over all these holdings and extended and developed the power operations to their present magnitude, which is today one of the largest power operations of any power concern on the coast. Dr. Ray was a member of the local Masonic orders including the Blue Lodge; Royal Arch Chapter No. 4 at Jacksonville; Knights of Pythias; Woodmen of the World; Medford Lodge No. 1168, B. P. O. E.

LEVEL OF FREIGHT RATES ON THE DECLINE

Owing to constant readjustments, some made voluntarily by the railroads and some under orders of the Interstate Commerce Commission the general level of railway rates is slowly but steadily declining, according to statistics received by the Southern Pacific Company from the Railway Age. Reductions in rates in 1925 saved the shipping public \$90,000,

000 as compared with the freight rates in 1924, while the difference in rates between those of 1925 and 1921 saved the shippers seven hundred forty-three million dollars in 1925.

The average railroad revenue per ton mile in 1921 was 1.274 cents; 1.176 cents in 1922; 1.116 cents in 1923 and 1924 and approximately 1.094 cents in 1925.

There has been no general reduction in passenger rates but the average passenger rate has declined owing to the making of special excursion rates. The average per mile in 1921 was 3.088 cents; in 1922, 3.028 cents; in 1923, 3.019 cents; in 1924, 2.978 cents; and in 1925 about 2.920 cents.

While railroad rates declined, the railroad tax bill increased, being about \$16,000,000 more in 1925 than in 1924.

FARM POINTERS

Land plaster spread in March on February sown clover in Oregon is usually beneficial in helping develop a vigorous stand. The February clover seed should be sown on fall grain before the spring growth of the grain makes much of a start, advises the experiment station.

Farm census figures for 1924 show that there were 1700 acres of alfalfa in the Willamette valley out of a possible 100,000 acres. Multnomah is first with four hundred thirty five acres, Marion second with two hundred thirty-five acres, and Linn third with two hundred ten acres. Experiment station results indicate that Grimm is the best variety to sow. It is used quite generally in western Oregon.

Oregon growers planning to sow vetch this spring should do so during February, advises the experiment station. It has been found that plantings made after March first are of little value. Vetch gives the best results when sown in the fall, but when wanted for hay a February planting of eighty pounds of common vetch per acre gives good results.

The rate of sowing Grimm alfalfa in Oregon depends in part on the condition of the seed bed. If it is moist, fine and firm and free from weeds it will not require so much seed per acre as if conditions were not so good. Experiments carried on at the college station showed that by sowing at eight to twenty pounds an acre in 1925, with exceptionally good conditions, a good stand was obtained. The thin sown plots made good stands, but they were more weedy, and not so thick as the heavier sowings. Twelve to fifteen pounds an acre gave the best results in tests. Alfalfa seed is a little cheaper now than last year.

Farmers who are feeding their cows kale or turnips regularly, or any other feed that is likely to flavor the milk, are advised by the Oregon experiment station to feed after milking instead of before.

Many Oregon dairymen are preparing for next summer's crops, remembering that a legume hay such as clover or alfalfa is necessary to make dairying pay. Oats and barley supply the necessary concentrates to be fed with such a hay, says the experiment station.

Cows that are receiving a ration of cheat or oat hay with grain are probably low in calcium and phosphorus, advises the experiment station. The addition of steam bonedd flour to such a ration will supply these elements. This flour can either be obtained from the lo-

cal feed dealer or from Swift and Company in North Portland at about \$3.75 per 100 pounds.

Dairymen feeding a non-legume hay such as chat or oat hay need a grain ration for their cows, which contains a protein supplement, finds the Oregon Experiment station. With the present market prices, the purchaser pays \$7.50 for one hundred pounds of digestible crude protein in soybean meal, \$8.80 for cottonseed meal, \$10.45 for linseed oil meal, \$2.50 for coconut meal and \$3.56 for mill run. At these prices the experiment station recommends the purchase of either cottonseed meal or soybean meal as the source of protein.

A preliminary germination test of seed corn for spring planting in Oregon should be made within the next month, advises the experiment station. The method is to select 200 to 500 kernels at random from all parts of the sack and germinate these on moist blotters or cloth between a pair of dinner plates. Some farmers send the selected kernels to the seed-testing laboratory at the experiment station, Corvallis, for germination tests. If ninety per cent, or better, of the seed grows, it is not necessary to test each ear separately. If less than ninety per cent grows, it is essential that each ear be tested and the dead seed discarded. For making this germination at home, full directions may be obtained on inquiry to the college.

BUILDING ROADS TO LAST

In the city of Visalia, California, there is an asphaltic concrete type of pavement, laid in 1894, which has cost nothing for maintenance and is now in excellent condition. Millions of yards of this type have been laid on the Pacific Coast and while it has not been as extensively used in the east, remarkable results have been obtained where it has been laid. In Erie, Pennsylvania, a section which had been down over thirty years, and which was in good condition, was recently taken up on account of changes in underground service. Roads that last are a necessity for the taxpayers.

WHERE CALIFORNIA SCORES

California has this in favor of her real estate, over Florida: It may shimmy around quite a bit but it does not splash.

WHY NOT?

Martin L. Davey, member of congress from the 14th district, Ohio, has introduced a bill in congress to give the president blanket power for two years to reorganize the business structure of the government—also statement giving the reasons for it.

"For seven years," Mr. Davey says, "I have observed the Departments and Bureaus of the government at Washington at close range, having had official business with nearly all of them. I am simply appalled at the loafing, indifference, and inefficiency. There are thousands upon thousands of unnecessary employes and endless duplication of alleged effort. There is an inexcusable waste of much more than a half-billion dollars a year.

"The tendency is to increase, rather than to diminish, the personnel and expenses of government.

"The thing proposed in my bill ought to be done. In all probability it is the only way that it ever will be

done. It is doubtful if real government reorganization will be accomplished by congressional action. The question is, will congress do it, if public opinion demands it in a way that is vocal and persistent."

A private corporation which had grown topheavy with overhead and

dead timbered, would pursue the course advocated by Mr. Davey—it would be up to the president of the company to correct his organization. Then why is it not good business to have the president of the United States, the greatest corporation in the world, follow the same course?

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Medford

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